

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 18, and 30 to read as follows.

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Sub 1

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A communication apparatus having different transfer rates, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a communication unit having different transfer rates, and adapted to transmit a predetermined packet to destinations at a predetermined using at least one of the different transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and
- b) a control unit adapted to discriminate a maximum transfer rate between the apparatus and the destinations, based on a response transmitted from each of the destinations.

Claims 2 and 3 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit retransmits the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower ~~that~~ than the ~~predetermined~~ previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 5 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit transmits data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after discriminating the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the communication unit packetizes the data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the destinations.

Claim 7 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein an amount of data packetized in each packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claims 8 and 9 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 10 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claims 11 and 12 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 13 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

Claim 14 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

Claim 15 (Previously Amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID that indicates a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.

Claims 16 and 17 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method for ~~an~~ a communication apparatus that includes a communication unit having different transfer rates, comprising the steps of:

- a) transmitting a predetermined packet to destinations ~~at a predetermined~~ using at least one of the different transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and
- b) discriminating a maximum transfer rate between the apparatus and the destinations, based on a response transmitted from each of the destinations.

Claims 19-29 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of retransmitting the ~~predetermined~~ previous packet at a transfer rate lower than the predetermined transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 31 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after discriminating the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 32 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 31, wherein the transmitting step includes packetizing the data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destinations.

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Claim 33 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 32, wherein an amount of data packetized in each packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 34 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet is transmitted in a communication that conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claim 35 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

Claim 36 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

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Claim 37 (Previously Added): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.
